

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2396

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS : PINT, YO

SUBJECT : SIROTKOVIC CONDDACY NEW PRESIDENCY CROATIAN
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

REF : A. ZAGREB 282; B. ZAGREB 178

1. ZAGREB PRESS APRIL 11 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DR. JAKOV SIROTKOVIC, NOW VICE PRESIDENT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY REPUBLICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR PERSONNEL QUESTIONS TO REPLACE DR. IVO PERISIN AS PRESIDENT OF CROATIA'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. IN PUTTING SIROTKOVIC FORWARD, COMMITTEE SIMULTANEOUSLY ANNOUNCED THAT PREVIOUSLY NAMED CANDIDATE, JOSIP VRHOVEC (REF B), "WAS PROPOSED AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEVENTH CONGRESS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP DUTIES" AT FEDERAL LEVEL OF PARTY.

2. COMMENT: FIRST REACTIONS FROM CONTACTS HERE EXTREMELY POSITIVE TO SIROTKOVIC ANNOUNCEMENT. SIROTKOVIC CONSIDERED MODERATE, INTELLIGENT, POLITICALLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY EXPERIENCED ECONOMIC EXPERT. VRHOVEC, WHOSE BACKGROUND BASICALLY JOURNALISM AND PARTY, HAS LESS EXPERIENCE IN IMPORTANT AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SIROTKOVIC ALSO NEWLY NAMED AT SEVENTH CONGRESS TO CROATIAN PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. DIFFICULT PRE-
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DICT BASIS PRESENT INFORMATION WHETHER FORMER CROATIAN PARTY

SECRETARY VRHOVEC LATERALING UP, SIDEWAYS OR DOWN IN REPORTED
TRANSFER BELGRADE. SENIOR PARTY FUNCTION ANNOUNCED FOR HIM
AT SEVENTH CONGRESS WAS TO BE ONE OF CROATIA'S 19 MEMBERS IN
PERMANENT SECTION LCY CONFERENCE, WHICH NOT FULL-TIME JOB.
THIS GROUP OF 19 CROATIAN PARTY FIGURES INCLUDES SENIORS SUCH
AS VLADIMIR BAKARIC, JURE BILIC, AND MIKA SPILJAK. THEREFORE,
POSSIBLE THAT ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED
FOR VRHOVEC IN NEXT WEEKS, PERHAPS AFTER TENTH CONGRESS.
WILSON

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